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Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)

Islamic Republic of Iran:* draft resolution

Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006), including the establishment of the World Solidarity Fund for poverty eradication

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 47/196 of 22 December 1992, by which it established the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, as well as its resolution 48/183 of 21 December 1993, by which it proclaimed 1996 the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty,

Recalling also its resolution 50/107 of 20 December 1995, on the observance of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty and the proclamation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006), as well as the declarations and programmes of action of the major United Nations conferences and summits of the 1990s as they relate to the eradication of poverty,

Recalling further its resolution 55/210 of 20 December 2000, entitled "Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006), including the initiative to establish a world solidarity fund for poverty eradication", in which it welcomed favourably the proposal to establish a world solidarity fund for poverty eradication,

Expressing its deep concern that the number of people living in extreme poverty continues to increase, with women and children constituting the majority and the most affected group, in particular in African countries and the least developed countries,

Recognizing that, while the rate of poverty in some countries has been reduced, some developing countries and disadvantaged groups are being marginalized and

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

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others are at risk of being marginalized and effectively excluded from the benefits of globalization, resulting in increased income disparity among and within countries, thereby constraining efforts to eradicate poverty,

Recognizing also that, for the poverty eradication strategy to be effective, it is imperative for developing countries to be fully integrated into the world economy in order to have an equitable share of the benefits of globalization,

Bearing in mind the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development,[1] the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development[2] and the Political Declaration[3] adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth special session, entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world", held at Geneva from 26 to 30 June 2000, as well as the objectives of the World Food Summit, held at Rome from 13 to 17 November 1996,

Bearing in mind also the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[4] adopted by heads of State and Government on the occasion of the Millennium Summit,[4] particularly section III, "Development and poverty eradication", and its emphasis on solidarity as a fundamental value in international relations in the twenty-first century,

Recalling the commitment made by the heads of State and Government at the Millennium Summit to eradicate extreme poverty, in particular the commitment to halve, by 2015, the proportion of the world's people whose income is less than one dollar a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger,

Recognizing that, while it is the primary responsibility of States to attain social development, the international community should support the efforts of the developing countries to eradicate poverty and to ensure basic social protection,

Recognizing also that despite the best efforts of developing countries to achieve the development and poverty eradication goals as set out in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the cooperation and assistance of the international community, including through the mobilization of resources from all sources as well as an enabling international environment, remain essential for the attainment of these goals,

Expressing concern over the slowdown in the major economies and its adverse impact on the economies of developing countries, which hinders the realization of agreed development goals, in particular poverty eradication,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[5]

1. *Stresses* that the United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty should contribute to achieving the targets of halving, by 2015, the proportion of the

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[1] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[2] Ibid., annex II.

[3] Resolution S-24/2, annex, sect. I.

[4] See resolution 55/2.

[5] A/56/229.

world's people whose income is less than one dollar a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger, through decisive national action and strengthened international cooperation;

2. *Stresses also* the need to join efforts to build a more inclusive, equitable and stable global economic system, with the full participation of developing countries, so as to achieve the development and poverty eradication goals as set out in the United Nations Millennium Declaration;

3. *Calls* for strengthened efforts at all levels to implement fully and effectively the relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations and all agreements and commitments adopted at the major United Nations conferences and summits organized since 1990, as well as the United Nations Millennium Declaration, as they relate to the eradication of poverty, with a view to achieving tangible results;

4. *Stresses* the importance of tackling the root causes of poverty and the necessity of meeting the basic needs of all, and, in this context, emphasizes the fundamental role in the eradication of poverty of strong and sustained economic growth that favours the poor, creates substantive expansion in productive opportunities and employment, increases incomes, promotes equitable income distribution and minimizes environmental degradation;

5. *Reaffirms* that the causes of poverty should be addressed in an integrated way, taking into account the importance of sectoral strategies in such areas as education, development of human resources, health, human settlements, rural development, productive employment, population, environment, fresh water, food security and migration, and the specific needs of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, in such a way as to increase opportunities and choices for people living in poverty and to enable them to build and strengthen their assets so as to achieve social and economic development;

6. *Welcomes* the holding of the International Conference on Financing for Development in Monterrey, Mexico, in March 2002, and encourages Governments and stakeholders to take concrete initiatives in support of financing for development within the framework of the substantive agenda, namely, mobilizing domestic financial resources for development, mobilizing international private resources for development, foreign direct investment and other private flows, trade, increasing international financial cooperation for development through, inter alia, official development assistance, debt relief, addressing systemic issues, enhancing the coherence and consistency of the international monetary financial and trading systems, and, in this regard, further emphasizes the importance of the above-mentioned agenda items for the full integration of developing countries into the global economy so as to achieve the goal of poverty eradication;

7. *Also welcomes* the convening of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, to be held in Johannesburg, South Africa, as another important opportunity for a renewed commitment for the attainment of the international

development goals and Agenda 21,[6] which recognizes the importance of poverty eradication as an indispensable requirement for sustainable development;

8. *Recognizes* the importance of the expansion of international trade as an engine of growth and development and, in this context, the need for expeditious and complete integration of developing countries and countries with economies in transition into the international trading system, in full cognizance of the opportunities and challenges of globalization and liberalization and taking into account the circumstances of individual countries, in particular the trade interests and development needs of developing countries;

9. *Emphasizes* the critical need for an equitable, rule-based, transparent, non-discriminatory and predictable multilateral trading system which contributes to the development of all countries, particularly developing countries;

10. *Stresses* the critical role played by official development assistance in complementing domestic efforts to meet the development needs of developing countries and, in this regard, expresses its appreciation to the developed countries that have reached the target of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product for overall official development assistance, and calls upon the developed countries that have not yet done so to commit themselves to achieving the agreed target and the target earmarking 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national product as official development assistance for the least developed countries, as agreed, as soon as possible;

11. *Welcomes* the enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative and urges the bilateral and multilateral creditors to take necessary measures to provide faster, deeper and broader debt relief for heavily indebted poor countries which will contribute to the eradication of poverty in a sustainable manner in those countries;

12. *Stresses* the importance of continued flexibility with regard to eligibility criteria for the enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative, in particular for countries in post-conflict situations;

13. *Recognizes* that some highly indebted middle-income developing countries are facing serious difficulties in meeting their external debt and debt-servicing obligations, owing, inter alia, to liquidating constraints, which may require debt treatment, including debt reduction measures, and calls for concerted national and international action to address effectively their debt problems in order to expedite the release of resources for social development;

14. *Calls upon* the developed countries, by means of intensified and effective cooperation with developing countries, to promote capacity-building and facilitate access to and transfer of technologies and corresponding knowledge, in particular to developing countries, on favourable terms, including concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, taking into account the need to protect intellectual property rights, as well as the special needs of developing countries, by identifying and implementing practical steps to ensure the achievement of progress in this regard and to assist developing countries in their efforts to eradicate poverty in an era influenced in large measure by technology;

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[6] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II.*

15. *Stresses* that the goal of halving extreme poverty by 2015 will not be achieved without serious efforts to address the needs of the least developed countries, and, in this regard, welcomes the adoption of the Brussels Declaration[7] and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,[8] adopted at the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Brussels from 14 to 20 May 2001, and calls on the international community, the United Nations system and multilateral organizations to implement fully the commitments undertaken in Brussels;

16. *Emphasizes* the role of microcredit as an important anti-poverty tool that promotes the generation of production and self-employment and empowers people living in poverty, especially women, and therefore encourages Governments to adopt policies that support the development of microcredit institutions and their capacities, and calls upon the international community, in particular the relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and international and regional financial institutions involved in the eradication of poverty, to support and explore the incorporation of the microcredit approach into their programmes and the further development, as appropriate, of other microfinance instruments;

17. *Welcomes* the New African Initiative, adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its thirty-seventh ordinary session, whose objective is the eradication of poverty and the promotion of human development in Africa, and calls upon the developed countries and the United Nations system to support this Initiative and complement the efforts undertaken by Africa to overcome the challenges it faces;

18. *Emphasizes* the critical role of both formal and non-formal education, particularly basic education, and training, in particular for girls, in the empowerment of those living in poverty, and, in this context, welcomes the Dakar Framework for Action adopted at the World Education Forum,[9] including the reconfirmation of the mandate of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to coordinate Education For All partners and maintain their collective momentum, and invites the organs and bodies of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund, to continue to promote the inclusion of education in anti-poverty strategies;

19. *Recalls* the commitments of the United Nations conferences and summits to eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education by 2005 and to promote universal primary education in all countries by 2015, and, in this regard, urges Member States to take immediate measures to remove obstacles to young girls' school attendance and to reduce drop-out rates;

20. *Reaffirms* the role of United Nations funds and programmes, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, in assisting the national efforts of developing countries, including in the eradication of poverty, and the need for their funding in accordance with relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

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[7] A/CONF.191/12.

[8] A/CONF.191/11.

[9] See *Final Report of the World Education Forum, Dakar, Senegal, 26-28 April 2000*, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Paris, 2000.

21. *Welcomes* the efforts made by the United Nations system to assign priority to the eradication of poverty and to enhance coordination, and, in this regard, encourages the organizations of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, and other partners in development to continue to support all Member States in carrying forward their own strategy for the achievement of the objectives of the Decade;

22. *Recognizes* the devastating effect of the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) epidemic on human development, economic growth and poverty reduction efforts in many countries, in particular sub-Saharan African countries, and urges Governments and the international community to give urgent priority to the HIV/AIDS crisis, in particular addressing the special needs of developing countries through strengthened cooperation and assistance as well as through the implementation of commitments undertaken, as agreed in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS,[10] adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth special session in June 2001;

23. *Calls upon* Member States and the international community to support and participate in the global campaign for poverty eradication at the global, regional and country levels in order to ensure that the poverty reduction goal is realized for all countries, and also calls upon all donor countries to support the campaign and to strengthen the resources available to the United Nations in order to enhance its capacity to support and coordinate all those initiatives and to play its role of facilitator and advocate;

24. *Decides* to establish the World Solidarity Fund for poverty eradication and the promotion of human and social development in developing countries and particularly the poorest segments of their populations;

25. *Invites* all donor countries, organizations, institutions, foundations and all interested parties that are in a position to do so to contribute to the operations of the Fund;

26. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session a report with recommendations on the mechanisms and modalities for the operationalization of the Fund;

27. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in the context of the follow-up to the United Nations Millennium Declaration, to submit to it at its fifty-seventh session a comprehensive report containing an evaluation of progress made towards achieving the goals of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006), as well as in the achievement of the 2015 targets on poverty reduction, and recommendations for further action to achieve the 2015 targets, including the identification of resource requirements and possible sources of funding;

28. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session the item entitled "Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)".

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[10] See resolution S-26/2.